

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No.	:	09/592,761	Confirmation No. :	8831
Applicant	:	Takahisa Ueda et al.		
Filed	:	June 13, 2000		
Title	:	Gland packing		
TC/A.U.	:	3674		
Examiner	:	N. L. Foster		
Docket No.	:	UEDA3004/FJD		
Customer No.	:	23364		

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA. 22202-3514

Sir:

This is in response to the Official Action of October 12, 2011, in connection with the above identified application.

The Official Action is a restriction requirement in which it is urged that there are 17 patentably distinct species claimed in this application. Applicants elect Species IX, Fig. 9, with traverse. The basis for restriction is different inventions. Variants of the invention, even though they can be characterized as species do not amount to different inventions. Therefore, all the claims should be examined.

Applicants reserve the right to file one or more divisional applications on the non-elected species at a later time, if the restriction is maintained.

In view of the election of the Species IX, an early and favorable action on the merits is now believed to be in order and is most respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
BACON & THOMAS, PLLC

Date: October 11, 2011

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